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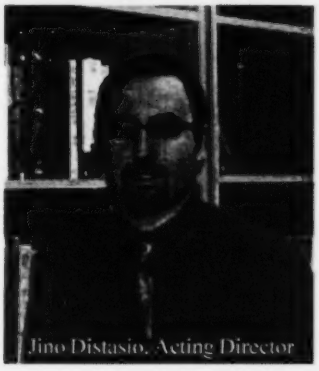
Volume 3, Issue 1

The Urban Link

Newsletter of the Institute of Urban Studies http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca

Director's Note
Jino Distasio, Acting Director

The Institute is now located at 520 Portage Avenue - formerly the Supreme Racquet Courts


Jino Distasio, Acting Director

Since 1969, the Institute has occupied three locations; two within the University and one a few blocks off campus on Portage Avenue. With changing needs we spent the last year in hot pursuit of our fourth and hopefully final destination. The planning required to change locations was enormous, and for a university unit, it required the coordinated efforts of many departments and individuals. To plan the move effectively we also had to think forward and consider not only our needs but those of students whom access many of our resources.

As the process began to unfold we contemplated a number of potential locations. This seemed to be the logical starting point, and as such, we viewed spaces on Portage Avenue and the Exchange District where we toured warehouses that contained boundless character and massive windows! To put this in perspective, our last location was in a basement space and so to peer through floor to ceiling windows, encased in sculptured wood work, was awe inspiring and very appealing.

Midway through the year we considered moving into a forgotten building on Portage called the Supreme Racquet Courts building. It was, in all honesty, a white, faceless monolith without windows and seemingly little potential. We began to debate our needs and made a decision that the wonderful spaces in the Exchange may be too far from campus and perhaps would not draw students, especially during the cold winter months. At this point

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The Urban Link is published by the Institute of Urban Studies. The newsletter serves as a forum for community organizations and other individuals to express views and relay information about urban issues related to the City of Winnipeg and other Canadian cities. The newsletter also disseminates information about the Institute of Urban Studies and major initiatives housed at the Institute. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those held by the Institute of Urban Studies or the University of Winnipeg. The Urban Link is co-edited by Michael Dudley and Michelle Swanson. Contributions are welcomed on an ongoing basis. Please contact Michael Dudley at (204) 982-1140 or m.dudley@uwinnipeg.ca.
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Director's note

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the developer of 520 Portage had come up with some conceptual drawings that envisioned taking empty racquet ball courts and transforming them into offices and condominiums. The concept was visionary and would, in essence, take an outdated structure and turn it into an innovative and mixed-use building. For the Institute to be a part of this plan made perfect sense as it embodied so many of the principles we consider important for strengthening downtown, including promoting the reuse of buildings and materials, adding housing and incorporating a number of uses. Not only would the Institute occupy a new space, it would be in a building that was a laboratory for urban redevelopment. This was seen as an asset for students who could see first hand the issues involved in such a transformation of a building.

On January 5th 2004, the process was completed and the Institute moved into 520 Portage officially known as The Courts. The new space contains a large library, a meeting room and offices housed within a two storey environment that is innovative, attractive and practical. I can say that we remain thankful to the many, many persons who made this move possible and contributed to the successful "change of address". At the end of the day this project remains a symbol of not only the move of the Institute but also the fact that a developer saw past the empty courts and plain façade and was able to integrate a forgotten space into the fabric of downtown. To change the urban landscape, and to contribute positively to the challenges of the inner city and downtown, it is important that cities have risk-takers who are not only creative and see potential, but they build it. This building is one such effort but many more are needed to transform the downtown of Winnipeg.

Front view of the Institute of Urban Studies new location at 520 Portage Avenue (formerly the Supreme Racquet Courts).

Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation

Dr. Tom Carter

In March 2003 Dr. Tom Carter of the University of Winnipeg's Institute of Urban Studies was named the Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation. Over the last 25 years, Dr. Carter has gained worldwide recognition as an international authority on urban policy and housing issues. The depth and scope of his research on critical issues such as rural housing, Aboriginal communities and inner-city housing continue to play a major role in generating workable solutions for many communities in Canada and abroad.

The three broad objectives of the seven-year research program are to develop a better understanding of the processes of urban decline, to evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives introduced to arrest decline, and to inform the policy process and suggest more effective policy and program tools to restore vitality and improve the quality of life in declining neighbourhoods. The program will use a cumulative approach working progressively from broad initiatives to more specific, focused areas of research. Although the focus is urban decline and revitalization work in this area will necessitate research on a broad number of issues ranging from regional growth strategies to housing need, to challenges facing Aboriginals in Winnipeg to revitalizing Winnipeg's central business district.

The test bed for Dr. Carter's program includes large areas of Winnipeg's inner city and the ageing suburban neighbourhoods that surround it. Like many other cities, these areas have changed significantly over the last several decades and are now exhibiting characteristics of social, economic and physical decline. Comparative core study material from other cities in Canada and abroad will be part of the research program.

The team for the research that will be undertaken by Tom includes Chesya Polevychok, Research Associate, and Kurt Sargent, Research Assistant.

The findings of the program will be published in a series of publications, research highlights and commentaries as the program progresses and will be available at the IUS website http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/. These reports will provide communities and governments with the crucial information they need to design more effective revitalization tools.

Kurt Sargent

Chesya Polevychok

Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation

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Institute of Urban Studies
The University of Winnipeg

IUS Library

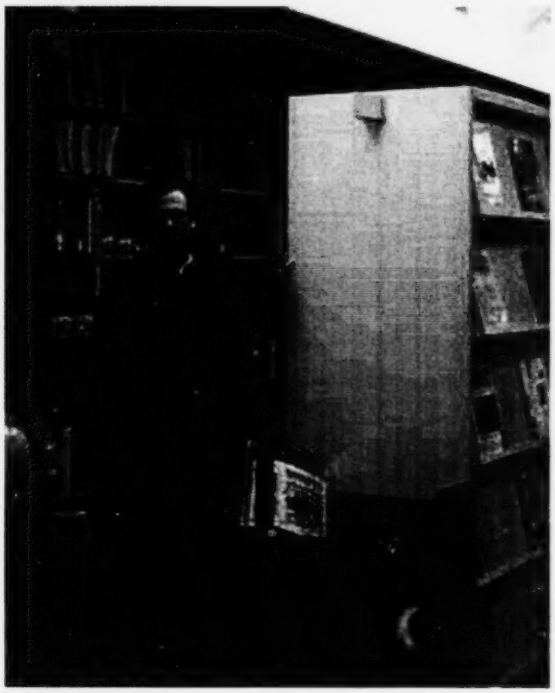
New Location a Boon for the IUS Library

After more than a decade in which it languished as an infrequently-visited collection in an awkwardly-shaped basement blocks away down Portage Avenue, the IUS Library is finally ready to take its place as an important part of the excellent library services available at the University of Winnipeg. With its spacious aisles, up-to-date collections and its catalogue fully integrated with that of the University of Winnipeg library, the IUS library will enable convenient access for students and faculty pursuing work in the areas of urban studies, sustainable development and community building.

Our holdings include circulating books, reference collections of key urban studies literature, magazines, IUS publications, vertical files and a collection of "gray literature" – consisting of conference papers and other rare reports. We also hold a special collection concerning children and youth in the urban environment.

The IUS library may be searched through a specially-designed catalogue on the IUS website (http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/library_search.html) or through the main library catalogue at: cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca.

The collections may be accessed by students and faculty at the University of Manitoba, Red River College and the Canadian Mennonite University. As well, we offer memberships to members of community development organizations, and encourage them to support their work through the use of our collections.



Michael Dudley is available to assist students and faculty with their research.

IUS Library Staff will assist you with:

- Searching the Library Catalogue to help you locate books, journals, and videos
- Searching the journal databases to find articles
- Searching the Internet

For more information, or to book an appointment for research consultation, please phone Michael Dudley at 982-1145, or email at m.dudley@uwinnipeg.ca.

IUS Library Hours

Mon to Fri, 8:30am to 4:30pm.
Suite 103-520 Portage Avenue

The Canadian Journal of Urban Research
Revue canadienne de recherche urbaine

"Continual reference to this journal will keep planners up-to-date on current Canadian urban research"

(David MacLeod, Plan Canada, 1997)

DUE OUT THIS WINTER!

Articles

Immigrants in Urban Labour Markets: Place of Birth and Immigrant Concentrations in British Columbia
Harald Bauder

Bridging Public-Private Partnerships in a Case Study of Housing and Employment Training for Homeless Youth
Rae Bridgman

The Political Economy of Urban Redevelopment: Downtown Revitalization in London, Ontario, 1993-2002
Timothy Cobban

Youth Participation in Planning: Strategies for Social Action
Penny Gurstein

The Economic Status and Coping Strategies of Food Bank Users in the Greater Toronto Area
Joseph H. Michalski

Pertes de vie et Blessures par Accidents de la Route Chez les Piétons â Montréal et â Toronto
Jean Pierre Thouez, Robert Bourbeau, André Rannou, Jacques Bergeron, Josiane Nadeau and Yves Bussiére

Élaboration d'un indicateur de développement urbain (IDU)
E. Georgina Zoro, Denis Morin and Goze B. Bénié

Comments

Are There Urban Regimes in Canada? Comment on: Timothy Cobban's "The Political Economy of Urban Redevelopment: Downtown Revitalization in London, Ontario, 1993-2002
Christopher Leo

Timothy Cobban's Reply to Christopher Leo's Comment "Are There Urban Regimes in Canada?"
Timothy Cobban

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Visit our website at:
http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/cjur_overview.html

Updates on Community-based Research

By Anita Friesen, Community Liaison Director

COMPLETED WIRA PROJECTS

The Rise of Fringe Financial Services In Winnipeg's North End: Client Experiences, Firm Legitimacy and Community-based Alternatives
Jerry Buckland, Thibault Martin et al.

Tenant and Landlord Cooperation (TLC) Guide to Good Management of Inner City Buildings for Landlords and Tenants
Linda Williams et al.

Voices from the Margins: Experiences of Street Involved Youth in Winnipeg *and* the Winnipeg Street Youth Survival Guide
Nancy Higgitt, Susan Wingert, Janice Ristock, et al.

NEW WIRA PROJECTS

Housing for Assisted Living in Inner-City Winnipeg
Principal Investigator: Michelle Owen *University of Winnipeg; Canadian Centre on Disability Studies*
Co-Investigators: Don Ament *Ten Ten Sinclair Housing Inc.*; Donna Collins *School of Medical Rehabilitation*

Rooming House Tenant and Landlord Cooperation: a Pilot Project
Principal Investigator: Jino Distasio *Institute of Urban Studies*
Co-Investigators: Inonge Aliaga *Spence Neighbourhood Association;* Karen Giesbrecht *Spence Neighbourhood Association*; Michael Dudley *Institute of Urban Studies*

Identifying Community Capacities in the Spence Neighbourhood
Principal Investigator: Judith Harris *MennoSimons College, University of Winnipeg*
Co-Investigators: Karen Hamilton *Spence Neighbourhood Association;* Earl Fast *House of Opportunities*

Enhancing Cultural Capital in Winnipeg's Inner City: Asset-Based Community Development through the Fine, Literary and Performing Arts
Principal Investigator: Michael Dudley *Institute of Urban Studies*
Co-Investigators: Jason Granger *Art City*; Talia Potash *Art City*

Understanding Housing and Neighbourhood Dynamics
Principal Investigator: Ian Skelton *University of Manitoba*
Co-Investigator: Tom Yauk *Housing Opportunity Partnership*

Visit the WIRA website at http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/wira_overview.html for more information on the above projects, including final reports, plus regular news updates about:

- ***Voices from the Margins* Community Forum Series**
- **Next call for research proposals (deadline yet to be determined)**
- **WIRA Summer Institute 2004: "What Makes a Good Neighbourhood?"**
- **WIRA hosted Community-University Conference: coming in the Fall of 2005**

WINNIPEG INNER CITY RESEARCH ALLIANCE
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